

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A member adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

at an end portion of said member adapted to be used in friction stir welding, said member has a raised portion which projects to a thickness direction of said member from one side face of said member, ~~and~~

said raised portion is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out a friction stir welding, and

during said friction stir welding, material of said raised portion fills any gaps, between said member and another member to be welded to said member, which exist when said member abuts said another member.

2. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, a third plate connecting said first plate and said second plate, and a raised portion provided on an end portion of said first plate,

said raised portion projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said first plate, ~~and~~

said raised portion is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out a friction stir welding, and

during said friction stir welding, material of said raised portion fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and another member to be welded to said

hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another member abut each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein:

at an end portion of said second plate, at a side of an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member having said raised portion, the hollow frame member has a further ~~second~~ raised portion,

said further ~~second~~ raised portion projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said second plate, and

said further ~~second~~ raised portion is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out a friction stir welding, and

during said friction stir welding, material of said further raised portion fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and said another frame member to be welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another frame member abut each other.

4. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said another member is another hollow frame member.

5. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said another member is another hollow frame member.

6. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said first and second plates of said hollow frame member respectively have exposed outer faces, and wherein said raised portion and said further raised portion respectively project

beyond the exposed outer faces of the first and second plates in said thickness direction.

7. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said exposed outer faces are exposed during said friction stir welding.

8. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer faces.

9. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

10. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said first plate of said hollow frame member has an exposed outer face, and wherein said raised portion projects beyond the exposed outer face in said thickness direction.

11. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said exposed outer face is exposed during said friction stir welding.

12. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer face.

13. (New) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

14. (New) A member according to claim 1, wherein said one side face of said member is adapted to be exposed during said friction stir welding.

15. (New) A member according to claim 1, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said one side face.